

of respect, can permit any one who is engaged in reviling his personal character and casting imputations on his honor and veracity, to keep a high and responsible station. No President has permitted it, and none should permit it.

General Lane, in the progress of subsequent events — for I have omitted a vast deal that under other circumstances I should have stated — had courts of inquiry. The first was held in reference to himself. I am glad to be able to say, as the papers show, that that court of inquiry said everything in regard to General Lane as a gentleman of bravery and gallantry, and made no impeachment of him whatever. They further say, that any order given to the second Indiana regiment to retreat, if such was given, did not emanate from him. That court pretty generally agreed with General Lane that Colonel Bowles, by reason of sickness and other causes, had not attained that degree of excellence in military science deemed indispensable to control other companies or regiments, but that during the action of that day he had shown no want of bravery. On the contrary, Colonel Davis, in his report speaks of his conduct as having been gallant throughout the day. General Wool, in his report speaks in like manner, and upon the score of bravery, as far as the reports of that action go, (and there are numerous reports from subordinates,) his bravery appears to be as great as that of General Lane.

General Lane has been pronounced to be the "Marion of the war." That he is brave, no one, I presume, will deny; but on that point I cannot perceive, judging from the reports, that he has or is entitled to an *iota* of reputation above Colonel Bowles. The second Indiana regiment broke and retreated. General Lane, in his report, says that all the officers endeavored to rally it. I understand Colonel Bowles to be included in that number. He did rally some twenty men, and joined Colonel Davis, of the rifle regiment; and, according to Colonel Davis's report, did excellent and efficient service. After these findings of the court, they said everything honorable to the gallantry of Colonel Bowles, but not much that was creditable to his skill as a commander. There was nothing to impeach his gallantry. They alone found that he had said, perhaps more than once, "Cease firing and retreat." It was remarked that they were in such a position that they should have retreated at an earlier period. But, as the second Indiana regiment was the regiment